IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: KEIRSGIETER, Petrus Jacobus

SERIAL NO.: 10/597,670 ART UNIT: 3732

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TITLE: DENTAL TREATMENT APPARATUS

Amendment A: REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendments, previous Claims 1 - 12 have been canceled and new Claims 13 - 23 substituted therefor. Reconsideration of the rejections, in light of the forgoing amendments and present remarks, is respectfully requested. The present amendments have been entered for the purpose of placing the claim language into a more proper U.S. format and for the purpose or more clearly distinguishing the present invention from the prior art.

In the Office Action, it was indicated that Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by the Hatakeyama patent in view of the Disel patent. Claims 2, 3 and 8 - 12 were rejected 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over the Hatakeyama patent in view of the Hahn patent. Claims 4 - 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Hatakeyama patent in view of the Hahn patent and further in view of the Arosio patent. Claim 7 was rejected as being obvious over the Hatakeyama patent in view of the Hahn patent and the Arosio patent and further in view of the Grayson patent. Additionally, it was indicated that the drawings were objected to as failing to show the cable. The specification was objected to as being a direct translation and not in idiomatic English. The claims were also objected to under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

As an overview to the present reply, Applicant has extensively amended the original claim language in the form of new Claims 13 - 23. New Claim 13 - 23 express the limitations of previous Claims 1 - 12, but express such limitations in a more proper U.S. format, including proper antecedent bases and proper structural interrelationships throughout. Any indefinite terminology found in the original claim language has been corrected herein.

In particular, so as to more clearly distinguish the present invention from the prior art, it is indicated that the first part has a "key slot radially opening to the first opening". The key slot is indicated as having a diameter that is less than the diameter of the outer flanged member and larger than the translatable pin. It is indicated that this key slot receives the translatable pin therein in an area between the outer flanged member and the inner flanged member. Applicant respectfully contends that these feature serve to distinguish the present invention from the prior art. In particular, new independent Claim 13 incorporates the limitations of previous independent Claim 1 and the limitations of dependent Claim 2. Claims 14 - 23 correspond, respectively, to the limitations found in previous dependent Claims 3 - 12.

Relative to the rejection of Claim 2, it is indicated by the Examiner that Claim 2 is made obvious by the combination of the Hatakeyama and Hahn patents. In the Hatakeyama patent, the parts 11 and 12 have a layout and are connected to each other in a manner that is completely different from the layout and the manner in which the first part 1 an the second part 2 are connected to each other in the present invention. In particular, in the Official Action, on page 6, the Examiner states that the Hatakeyama patent shows:

> The second part (12) is provided with an opening (i.e. step portion 60) through which a drawing pen (i.e. annular groove 60) is movable, the drawing pen (40) at one outer end can be fixed to a

> cable (connection pipe 47) and at another outer end being provided with an inner flanged edge (i.e. inner flange 54) spaced from an outer flange edge (i.e. O-ring 43). As spring (coil spring 52) is provided in between said inner flange edge (54) and said second part. The drawing pen (40) being supported on said second part (12) and being drawn against spring force through the opening by said cable (i.e. connecting pipe 47). The first part (11) is provided with a first opening (fitting recess 26) having a diameter allowing it to be mobile over the outer flange edge (43). The first opening (26) extends into a second opening (recess in which reference numeral 21 is shown) the second opening having a diameter smaller than a diameter of the outer flange edge (43) but large than a diameter of said drawing pen (40). When the first part (11) with said second opening (recess, in which reference numeral 21 is shown) is placed in between the flanged edges (43 and 54) and leans against the outer flange edge (43) by pulling the cable (47) the first part is moved toward the second part, the connector parts being coupled to each other (as shown in Figure 3).

According to this, it is the Examiner's position that the parts 11 and 12 in Hatakeyama are coupled to each other by pulling the connection part 47. The part identified with reference numeral "11" in the Hatakeyama patent is the handpiece body. The item identified with reference numeral "12" is the hose portion. The Examiner's analysis is not on point. On the contrary, the handpiece body 11 and the hose portion 12 are coupled to each other by inserting the insert cylinder 36 with the parts 40 and 41 of the hose portion 12 into the fitting recess of the handpiece body 11 and pushing the one into the other.

In particular, it is recited in the Hatakeyama patent in column 7, lines 39 - 41 that:

> In a state where the handpiece body 11 is removed from the hose portion 12, the hose portion 12 is that as shown in FIG. 2."

Also, it is recited in the Hatakeyama patent in column 7, lines 44 - 66 that:

> When the handpiece body 11 is connected to the hose portion 12 as shown in FIG. 3 from the above-described state, the insert cylinder 36 may be inserted into the fitting recess 26. Thereby, the connection pipe 28 urges the slide ring 53 against the coil spring 52,

> and the steel ball 58 is fallen into the annular groove 63 disposed in the connection pipe 28 for engagement therewith. Then, the inclined step portion 60 of the operating ring 17 is disengaged from the steel ball 58 and the operating ring 17 moves forward by the bias force of the coil spring 65. This forward movement of the operating ring 17 brings the steel ball 58 into engagement with the thick wall thickness portion 61 of the operating ring 17 and the steel ball 58 is urged in an axial direction. The forward movement of the operating ring 17 is stopped by engagement of the steel ball 58 with the stopper 62. As a result, the outward movement of the steel ball 58 is completely stopped and both will not be separated from each other even pulling them in a direction opposite to each other by carrying the handpiece body 11 and the grip cover 18 . In this connected condition, the insert cylinder 36 is rotatably fitted into the fitting cylinder 25 through the 0-rings 41, 43 and 45 ..

Applicant respectfully contends that the connection pipe 47 of Hatakeyama patent has no function whatsoever in bringing about the connection between the handpicce body 11 and the hose portion 12. The connection pipe 47 further has a lay-out and function different from that of the cable of the present invention. In particular, it is stated in the Hatakeyama patent in column 6, lines 13 - 19 that:

> . . . a connection pipe 47 forming an air tank chamber to feed air to the air turbine in a stabilized state with pressure fluctuation of pressurized air relieved. The connection pipe 47 has a larger diameter than the air passage 38, the connection pipe has its front end communicated with the air passage 38 whereas the rear end communicated with the flexible hose 19.

In the present invention, the first part and the second part are drawn or pulled towards each other by pulling the cable. This cable cannot be compared to the connection pipe 47 described in Hatakeyama patent. This cable is connected to one end of a translatable pin. The other end of the translatable pin is provided with the two spaced flanged members in between which edges of the first part are placed therebetween. By simply pulling the cable with the translatable pin connected thereto, the first part is moved towards the second part and pulled against it. This allows the parts to be connected to each other. The connecting piece of the present invention makes possible a quick

and secure connection of the first part and the second part .

Applicant notes that the Hatakeyama patent does not show nor suggest individually or in combination with the prior art the key slot that radially extends into the first opening. In the Hatakeyama patent it has been stated that the first opening (26) extends into a second opening (recess in which reference numeral 21 is shown). There is no "key slot" that opens radially into the first opening. As such, Claim 2 is further distinguishable from the prior art combination.

Applicant is enclosing a substitute Specification herein that recites the language from the previously submitted application in a more proper U.S. format. No new matter has been added in this Substitute Specification.

Applicant is enclosing a new drawing herein illustrating the cable.

Based upon the foregoing analysis, Applicant contends that independent Claim 13 is now in proper condition for allowance. Additionally, those claims which are dependent upon Claim 13 should also be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of the claims at an early date is earnestly solicited. Since no new claims have been added above those originally paid for, no additional fee is required.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

/Andrew W. Chu/

John S. Egbert; Reg. No. 30,627
Andrew W. Chu; Reg. No. 46,625
Egbert Law Offices
412 Main Street, 7th Floor
Houston, Texas 77002
(713)224-8080
(713)223-4873 fax

Customer No. 24106